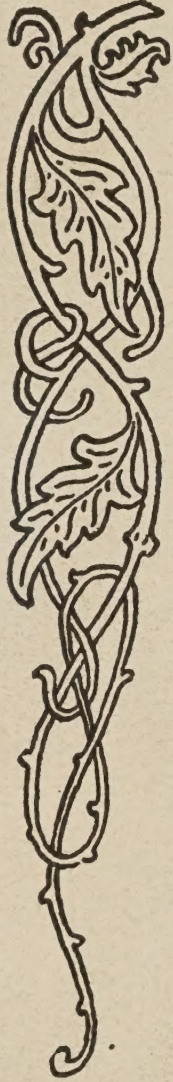


1901

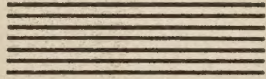
A Sketch



OF THE
HISTORY
OF THE

Parish of

Woodstock



By

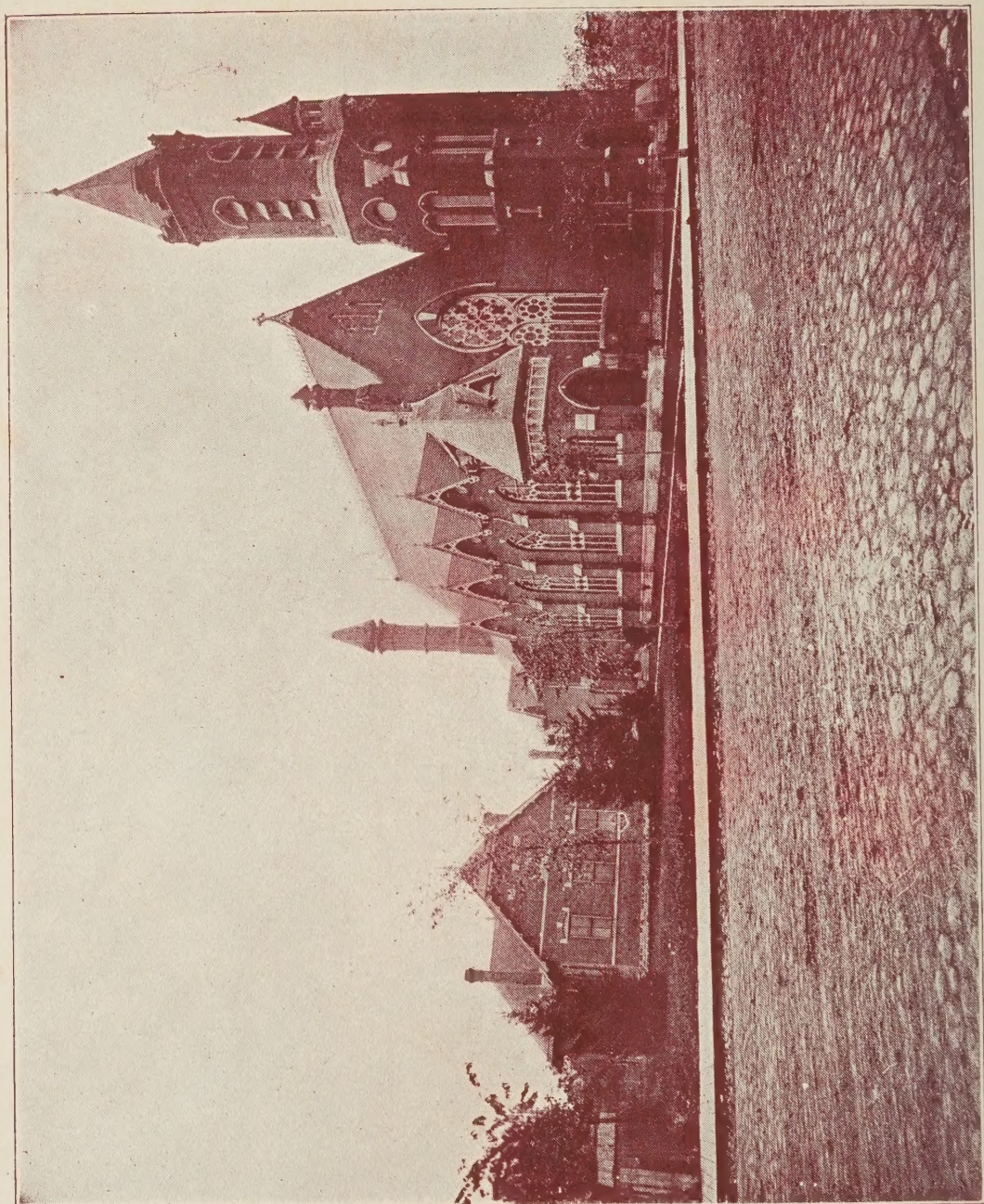
The Right Reverend Arthur Sweatman, D.D., D.C.L.

Lord Bishop of Toronto.

A Sketch

OF THE
HISTORY
OF THE

Parish of Woodstock



NEW ST. PAUL'S.

Clergy of the Parish of Woodstock.

FIRST RECTOR—

1833-1879. Rev. William Bettridge, B.D., St. John's College, Cambridge, England ; canon of St. Paul's Cathedral, London, Ontario.

Rectors in Charge—

1875-1876. Rev. William B. Evans.

1876-1879. Venerable Archdeacon Sweatman, M. A., Christ College, Cambridge, England. (Now Lord Bishop of Toronto.)

SECOND RECTOR—

1879-1889. Rev. James Johnson Hill, M.A., Kings College, Windsor, N. S.

THIRD RECTOR—

1889- Rev. John Cragg Farthing, M. A., Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, England.

The following clergymen have served as curates in the parish :

1848-1850. Rev. John Bell Worrell, M.A. (Now rector of Oakville and canon of Christ Church Cathedral, Hamilton.)

1853-1859. Rev. Joseph C. Gibson.

1859-1862. Rev. Abraham Hutchison.

1869-1871. Rev. Charles Bancroft, B.D.


1871-1872. Rev. Isaac Barr.

1872-1875. Rev. William Craig, B.D. (Now rector of Petrolia.)

1891-1893. Rev. Ernest Chilcott, B. A., Trinity College, Toronto. (Now in Ireland.)

1894-1895. Rev. George A. Robson. (Now in Bridgeport, Conn.)

1895-1897. Rev. Edward Geoffrey May, B.A., Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge. (Now curate of Firle, England.)



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2024 with funding from
University of Toronto

Paper Read on the 14th Jan., 1901

in St. Paul's School House, Woodstock, on the 21st Anniversary of the opening of the new Church.

THE History of Woodstock does not date very far back. Its starting-point may be placed in the year 1832. It was then known only by the name of "the plot." Some half dozen houses and a very few inhabitants composed the settlement.

In this year, Capt. Drew, R. N., visited the spot and, pleased with the situation and the excellent quality of the land, determined to take up his "grant" here.

He was followed by others; Col. Light who, we are told, became possessor of "one of the sweetest spots in Canada"; Capt. Graham, R. N., Messrs. Hunter, M. P. P., Riddell, Deedes, Buller, Gibson, and later, the Hon. P. B. de Blaquiére and others.

The name of Admiral Vansittart will always be identified with that of Woodstock as practically the founder of the town and the donor of the Church.

He commissioned Captain Drew to make extensive purchases of land for him.

Very soon the want of a Church was felt by the incomers of this new settlement, and was made known to Admiral Vansittart in England.

He immediately collected small sums for the purpose, amounting to about £250, to which he and his sister, Mrs. East, added a like sum, and in this year, 1832, sent £500 for the erection of a simple edifice. The land for the site of a church and churchyard was given by Captain Drew.

In the latter part of the year, the living was offered by Admiral Vansittart to the Rev. William Bettridge, with the generous pledge of an income of £100 and 100 acres of cleared land, until the government should make an equal allowance; but as no convenient residence could be found for him, and the church was not yet built, his departure for Canada was deferred.

Meanwhile the church was in progress, being erected under the exclusive direction of Captain Drew. The sum already received was augmented by local contributions (including an additional £120 from Admiral Vansittart) to about £1000, which is stated to have been the full value of the building, though not its full cost.

The result was a plain brick church, without any architectural beauty to recommend it, capable of seating 400.

A small comfortable parsonage house was given by the Admiral, together with 60 acres of cleared land; the endowment of the rectory consisting of 80 acres of cleared land and 400 acres of wild land.

At length in the spring of 1834, the Rector came out in the company and at the entire charge of Admiral Vansittart, and entered upon the duties of his parish.

Some delay seems to have taken place in the transfer of the property to the Bishop of Quebec and his successors, which necessitated the congregation assembling for a time in a temporary building erected at the expense of the Admiral, and afterwards presented by him to the church for a Sunday school and weekly lecture room.

For the use of the church, the books for reading desk and communion table, the registers, surplices, etc., were given by Admiral Vansittart, and the very handsome communion plate by the rector.

This same first rector of St. Paul's, Woodstock, was a notable personage. He commenced life in the army under somewhat brilliant auspices. In the Peninsular War, he was, as some reports say, one of the aides-de-camp of the Duke of Wellington, or as others, town-major of Brussels. In either case he was present at the celebrated ball given by the Duchess of Richmond in that city on the night before the battles of Ligny and Quatre Bras, three nights before Waterloo. Alliston says, "It was in the afternoon of the 15th, at half-past four that Wellington received intelligence at Brussels of the advance of their numerous assailants, which the Prussians could not much retard. Upon receipt of later and fuller accounts at half-past seven, orders were dispatched to the troops in every direction to concentrate at Quatre Bras; and, after they had been sent off, he dressed and went with characteristic calmness and sangfroid to the ball, where his manner was so undisturbed that no one discovered that any intelligence of importance had arrived. Many brave men were there assembled amidst the scenes of festivity, and surrounded by the smiles of beauty, who were ere long locked in the arms of death."

Byron has immortalized this scene in Childe Harold :—

There was a sound of revelry by night,
And Belgium's capital had gathered then
Her beauty and her chivalry, and bright
The lamps shone o'er fair women and brave men,
A thousand hearts beat happily, and when
Music arose with its voluptuous swell,
Soft eyes looked love to eyes which spake again,
And all went merry as a marriage-bell!
But hush! hark! a deep sound strikes like a rising knell!

Mr. Bettridge, however, was not present at the great battle; he only arrived at Waterloo when all was over.

Abandoning his military career, he entered the University of Cambridge, and, after taking his degree, was ordained in 1824, ten years before his entrance upon the rectory of Woodstock.

He was a gentleman of dignified presence and most courtly manners, a scholar and an eloquent preacher. As a reader of the services of the church he especially excelled, being a master of the art of elocution; and as became one trained in military discipline, he was rigid in both practising and exacting order and subservience to authority.

The early days of this new settlement are pleasant to look back upon as a sort of Utopia. It was an experiment in transporting to, or reproducing in this new and free land of promise, the social customs and style of living of the old English county gentry. Everything was essentially English—the society, the church, even the names of the localities, Oxford, Blandford, Blenheim, Norwich, Woodstock; there was good family, even a certain degree of rank, a large number of retired officers of both services; wealth and university culture were represented by such as the Vansittarts, the De Blaquieres, the three Farmer brothers and many others. And so we are told that the Woodstock of those halcyon days presented all the marks of English fashionable life; handsome equipages with liveried servants rolling along the street; fine houses in spacious and beautifully laid out grounds rising up throughout the neighborhood; gay entertainments and notably the cricket club to keep alive the noblest and best loved of English sports.

Well, all this has passed away like a dream, surviving only in some still honored names and in a memory that lingers round the place with a pleasant old-time fragrance.

It is instructive to go back to this year 1834 and take a look round at things as they stood then ; it can only be the merest glance at a very few things. The date has a personal interest to me, because it is the year in which I was born. It is also the year in which the town of York was incorporated into the city of Toronto. It was exactly fifty years since Upper Canada received its first settlement of white people by the immigration of 10,000 U. E. Loyalists.

I have no data to furnish the population of the Province at this precise date ; but in 1825, the official returns, which were incomplete, gave 198,000; estimate gave 212,000 ; but these were years of large influx from immigration. The number of immigrants in 1828 and following years varied from 30,000 to 50,000, 53,000, till it reached its climax in 1833 of over 60,000, and in 1838 the numbers had risen to something under 500,000. The population of the county of Oxford was returned in 1825 at 4227.

Turning to the then state of the church, it was a time of extreme spiritual destitution and great outcry from all parts for the ministration of the clergy. In 1838 there were claimed to be 100,000 members of the Church of England thus clamoring for a ministry that was denied to them.

In 1834, the whole of Upper and Lower Canada was under the Episcopal jurisdiction of the sainted Charles James Stewart, second Bishop of Quebec, the father of the church of Upper Canada, to whose apostolic missionary labors a large number of our parishes owe their existence. It was in this year that he founded the " Upper Canadian Travelling Fund" in England, better known as " The Stewart Missions."

Narrowing our survey to what constitutes the present Diocese of Huron in order to note how many and whom the rector of Woodstock found as brother clergymen and neighbors in taking charge of his parish, we have the following list of ten. At Sandwich, E. J. Boswell, appointed in 1827 ; Mohawk Village (i : e :) Brantford, R. Lugger, 1827 ; Woodhouse, F. Evans, 1828 ; St. Thomas, Mark Burnham, 1829 ; Amherstburg, F. Mack, 1829 ; Mohawk Indians, Abraham Nelles, 1829 ; Oxford (prob. Ingersoll) Henry Patton, 1829 ; London, Benjamin Cronyn, 1832 ; Delaware and Muncey, Richard Flood, 1832 ; and Adelaide, Dominic E. Blake, 1833.

It may further be noticed with interest that the parish of Hamilton was organized in the same year as Woodstock, the Rev. J. Gamble Geddes being the first rector.

This western part of the province was under the Archidiaconal oversight of the Honorable and Venerable John Strachan, rector of Toronto.

We are now in a position to form something of a picture of Mr. Bettridge's surroundings when he first settled in this place; and we may go on to chronicle the few incidents of interest in his ministry and in the history of the parish that are accessible.

During the first year, Divine service was held in the Woodstock church twice on Sunday and once on a week day, but soon the spiritual wants of the neighbourhood forced themselves on the rector's attention, and in 1836 he commenced Sunday Services at Beachville and Eastwood. The congregation at Beachville steadily increased, when a meeting was held to consider the propriety of building a small church. Half an acre of land each was given by Mr. Merrigold and Mr. Ford, and a subscription list commenced, headed by Admiral Vansittart's name for £25. The fund was also aided by the amount of £50, collected by the rector in England. The church accommodating about 250, was finished and service regularly held in it, every Sunday afternoon, before the autumn of 1839.

The same steps were taken to supply the spiritual needs of Eastwood. Here was the large estate of 1000 acres purchased by Admiral Vansittart, which he laid out as English park and paddock in which he built his residence and which he named Eastwood Park after his sister, Mrs. East.

Again he donated £25, the rector contributed £50 from the fund raised, a site was given by Mr. Retallic, and by the autumn of 1839 the church was sufficiently advanced to admit of Divine service on alternate Sunday mornings at a quarter to 10 o'clock.

Another morning service was regularly held on the alternate Sundays at the same hour at Huntingford, in Zorra, in a neat frame church which had been erected and endowed with 200 acres of land adjoining at the sole expense of the Rev. Thomas Huntingford, of Kemsford, Gloucestershire, nephew of the late Bishop of Hereford.

The services in these three places were rendered gratuitously.

In 1836, the fifty-seven rectories of the Church of England in Upper Canada were established by Sir John Colborne, and in the same year, the Right Reverend Geo. Jehoshaphat Mountain was consecrated third Bishop of Quebec, in succession to Bishop Stewart, who died in England on the 13th July, 1837.

Early in 1837, the Rev. Wm. Bettridge and the Rev. Benjamin Cronyn, rector of London, sailed for England as a deputation to plead the cause of the spiritually destitute settlers of Upper Canada in their respective native lands. On their arrival on the other side, Mr. Cronyn proceeded to Ireland on his mission, Mr. Bettridge presented his in England. A great deal of interesting and valuable information is extant as to his proceedings. He published, as an appeal to English church people, "A Brief History of the Church in Upper Canada," setting forth its political situation under imperial and local legislation and exhibiting the lamentable lack of clergy to minister to the emigrants pouring into the country, the vast territory over which the scattered settlements extended and the serious disabilities under which the church laboured for want of a bishop to direct its work, and strongly appealing for money and men.

Three thousand copies of this history were circulated and nearly 200,000 appeals.

He memorialized the Queen and petitioned the two Houses of Parliament for the appointment of a bishop. In the Lords an animating and interesting discussion was evoked. Lord Glenelg wrote him officially a letter of sympathy and concurrence.

He maintained a constant communication with the Archbishop of Canterbury, enlisting his lively interest and that of the other bishops. He brought the state of the U. C. Church personally under the attention of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge and of about 2000 of the clergy.

In the prosecution of this crusade he preached and held meetings in more than half of the dioceses of England, and travelled little less than 6000 miles.

As might be expected, these labors were not unfruitful in results, some immediate, some indirect. The societies increased their aid, and individual gifts of money were numerous, in some instances munificent.

It may be interesting to mention that the University of Oxford granted a complete set of the standard theological works printed at their press. These valuable volumes now form a part of the Diocesan Theological Library deposited in St. Alban's Cathedral, Toronto.

On leaving England, Mr. Bettridge issued a valedictory address, summing up the arguments of the appeal put forth by the deputation and recounting his efforts in its prosecution. It is dated Sept. 12th, 1838.

At the end of October he and his family returned to Woodstock.

The year of his absence was a period of great political disturbance in the country. Dissatisfaction with the party in power and agitation for a responsible government spread throughout both provinces, and, in Upper Canada, culminated in W. Lyon Mackenzie's rebellion, Dec. 4-7, 1837.

In 1838-9, the only Sunday service at Woodstock was held at mid-day.

Subscriptions were made to provide free sittings for about 130 persons by the enlargement of the gallery and other alterations. The pew rents produced from £120 to £150 a year; and quarterly collections were made for the current expenses of the church.

A Sunday school was established at Woodstock and Eastwood with an average attendance of about 100, but there was a difficulty in obtaining teachers.

The greatest number of communicants at one service in Woodstock was, so far, 65; and there were about 50 baptisms in the year. It was characteristic of the rector's strict adherence to prescriptive usage that baptisms were required to be administered during the public service, and that marriages were solemnized gratuitously on condition of the banns being published and the ceremony performed in the church.

The year 1839 was memorable for the erection of Upper Canada into a separate Diocese and the consecration of Dr. John Strachan to be its first bishop under patent from the Crown.

It appears that at this time the Dissenters in the neighborhood of Woodstock, including the Presbyterians, were very unfriendly to the church; the most active proselytizing efforts were being made; and when in the early part of 1840, Mr. R. Rolls Hunter, the local member of the legislature, applied to Mr. Bettridge for assistance and the grant of a piece of church land for the erection of a Presbyterian place of worship in Woodstock, it called forth from the rector a lengthy letter dated in April asserting in no equivocal terms the Divine commission and Apostolic authority of the church and firmly declining to assist in the propagation of what he held to be heresy and schism.

About the same time it came to light that certain important letters written by Governor Simcoe which were used by the Hon. P. de Blaquiére in his argument on the Clergy Reserve question before the Legislative Council, had been obtained through the exertions of Mr.

Bettridge during his stay in England. This is the account of their discovery given by Mr. John G. Vansittart in a letter dated March 2nd, 1840. While in Devonshire Mr. Bettridge was invited one day to breakfast by the widow of the late General Simcoe; and ever mindful of the great object in view, he lost not the opportunity to enquire if she had any recollection of the General's leading measures in his administration of the government of Upper Canada, particularly as regarded the church and the settlement of the Clergy Reserves. She replied that she remembered them most distinctly, which led to further enquiry and resulted in the discovery that she had in her possession many original letters and documents connected with the subject. After a difficult and fatiguing search among several old dust-covered chests piled up in the library, and which had not been disturbed for many years, Mr. Bettridge, assisted by the daughters of Mrs. Simcoe, was enabled to select those letters which he sent to the Hon. Mr. De Blaquiére.

On Monday, 18th Jan., 1841, a meeting was held in St. Paul's Church to form "The Brock District Committee of the S.P.C.K." I merely give the list of office-bearers elected because it recalls many familiar names of members of the church:—

Rear-Admiral Vansittart, President; Rev. Wm. Betteridge, B.D. and J. Boyse Yeilding, Esq., Joint Secretaries; Hugh Barwick, Esq., Treasurer; Committee, Colonel Light, Capt. Graham, R.N., Edward Buller, Esq., R. N., John G. Vansittart, Esq., Alexander Murray, Esq., R.N., Frederick Fauquiere, Esq., Henry Finkle, Esq., Messrs Elliot, Sharp, Jones, Richard Adams, Bartles, Cummings, Hart, G. Edgar.

At the Easter vestry meeting, 1842, it was determined to erect a spire on the church tower and effect other improvements in the interior. Within the last month, two tablets, containing the commandments, creed and Lord's prayer, to stand on each side of the altar, were presented by John Brownlow Osborn, Esq., son of Sir John Osborn, Bart., a young gentleman recently come into the neighborhood.

In the evening of Easter Monday a deputation waited on the rector with a list of subscriptions to a large amount which they had obtained during the afternoon and declaring that they would not desist until they had collected £200 for the above objects.

The Woodstock Herald of Aug. 26th announced that Mr. Henry Finkle had taken the contract for erecting the spire on St. Paul's church and the work would be immediately commenced.

In May, 1845, the rector issued a notification which excited some angry controversy—that all inscriptions designed to be placed upon tombstones about to be erected in the burial ground of which he is incumbent should first be submitted to him for approval.

A glimpse of the church at Woodstock in 1849 is obtained from the account of Archdeacon Bethune's visitation on the 18th of Sept. It is noted as a pleasing feature that the clergy were all in surplices, chiefly provided by the rector: there was a numerous and highly respectable congregation. The criticism on the church reads "it is a poor building of brick, with an undue proportion of window glass, wholly devoid of that dim religious light in which our ancestors gloried, and with very few of the characteristics of an ecclesiastical edifice, if we except a new chancel recently added with very commodious stalls for the use of the clergy."

It is probably little known what an important and valuable part Mr. Bettridge and the Hon. Mr. De Blaquiere played in bringing about the Synodal constitution of the church in Upper Canada, but this is a big subject which must be passed over.

As we come down to times more nearly within the recollection of the living generation we find the good town of Woodstock growing in population and prosperity, new factories and industries springing up, but all progress tending away from the site of the church, stretching farther and farther westward, leaving the church almost isolated at the eastern extremity of the one long-drawn street; but through the prolonged ministry of its first rector it maintained an uninterrupted prosperity and reputation ranking high in importance and usefulness among the leading parishes of the province.

In course of years as the church's work increased and with it also the age and infirmities of the rector, it became necessary for him to have assistance. Among the many who laboured in this parish as his curates were Rev. J. B. Worrell, Jos. C. Gibson, Abraham Hutchinson, Albert Whitmarsh, Charles Bancroft, Isaac Barr and William Craig. Mr. Craig was the last who worked under the immediate direction of Mr. Bettridge. The aged rector's powers were now failing. Half of his long life had been devoted to the church in this place. Coming here at the age of forty, he spent another forty years in its active service. He had been under canonical obedience to no fewer than five bishops—Bishop Stewart, of Quebec, in his first two years, 1834-1836, Bishop Mountain, of Quebec, 1836, Bishop Strachan, of Toronto, 1839, Bishop Cronyn, of Huron, 1857, and Bishop Hellmuth, of Huron, 1871.

At the age of eighty he retired from the active charge of the parish, retaining the title and legal rights of rector for life; and the Rev. W. B. Evans was appointed to the sole charge.

Some two years later Bishop Hellmuth was pleased to appoint me to succeed Mr. Evans in the same capacity of rector in charge, together with the office of Archdeacon of Brant, (in succession to the Ven. F. D. Fauquire). I preached my first sermon in St. Paul's in this new relationship (I had once before occupied the pulpit in the rector's time on the afternoon of Easter Sunday, 1872) on the 1st of October, 1876. My duty extended to a Sunday afternoon service at Trinity Church, Beachville, which was still attached to Woodstock; and I may dismiss this topic by saying that the duty was an altogether delightful one. My relations with the very charming families who formed the congregation, and the weekly drive on the best and most picturesque four miles of road in the country (till the railway spoiled it) have left on my mind the most pleasing memories.

I should have enjoyed relating some of my many happy and cherished reminiscences of my ministry in Woodstock, but time forbids. When I took charge the chief topic of interest in the vestry and church circles was the building of a new church in the central part of the town,

This had already been decided on, the site procured and the plans of Mr. Gordon Lloyd accepted. The building was going on during my time and furnished an unfailing source of interest and happy anticipations. These, however, were not to be realized by me. Before the church was completed I was called away to my present office, and with great regrets preached my farewell sermon on 13th April, 1879. But, by the courtesy of Bishop Hellmuth, I had the sincere gratification of uniting with the congregation of St. Paul's in the joyous opening of their new and truly beautiful church exactly twenty-one years ago this day.

The Rev. Jas. J. Hill was appointed to succeed me as rector in charge in April, 1879, and in November of the same year was inducted to the rectory on the death of the venerated rector, Canon Bettridge.

For some time after the new church was in use the old church was closed; but dissatisfaction arose and a desire on the part of many for the reopening of the old church. As a result, in May, 1882, the bishop licensed Rev. A. A. W. Hastings to its charge, together with Beachville. In 1887 the Rev. Wm. H. Wade succeeded Mr. Hast-

ings, and on his appointment to the Church of the Ascension, Hamilton, the Rev. Frank Baldwin succeeded in turn.

Meanwhile Mr. Hill applied for a year's leave of absence at Easter, 1888, and the Rev. John Cragg Farthing, M.A., was appointed his locum tenens, commencing his duties in June, 1888.

Mr. Hill resigning, on the expiration of his leave of absence, Bishop Baldwin conferred the parish on Mr. Farthing, who thus became from Easter, 1889, the third rector of Woodstock.

I have thus brought down the history of the parish, by a rapid and imperfect sketch, from its first inception to its present status in quo, and it only remains for me to congratulate its church members and its worthy, energetic and conspicuously gifted rector, upon the prosperous and happy condition it has attained in its sixty-eight years of life, with two good and flourishing congregations, its large Sunday schools, its mission chapel and all the varied agencies and organizations of the church in full, efficient and beneficent operation—and to offer to rector and people my most earnest wish that for many years to come they may continue to enjoy increasingly richer blessing from God in their co-operation of labours for the extension and glory of His Church in this place.

Dates of Interest.

1833. First church built costing £1800.
1834. The Reverend William Bettridge arrived in Woodstock, though his appointment is dated the previous year. He held the first service of the church in his private house, as owing to some dispute he could not get possession of the church building. There were eleven persons present, of whom one only survives, Mr. William Grey. Mr. Bettridge preached from the text, "One thing is needful". He was a missionary under the Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign parts and his stipend was partly paid by this society for some years.
- The first baptism entered in the register is that of Elizabeth Jane, daughter of William and Mary West.
- The first marriage is that of Oliver Fowler Hunter and Maria Underwood of Norwich.
- The first burial was that of Richard Green Spencer of Hamilton, who died of cholera.
1835. The rectory and lot at the east end were given by Rear-Admiral Vansittart on 29th September, 1835.
1836. By order-in-council dated 15th January, 1836, 400 acres of land were granted as a glebe or endowment for the rectory.
- 19th May, 1836, Mr. Bettridge received his licence to serve in this newly created crown rectory from Archdeacon Strachan acting for the Bishop of Quebec.
- By letters patent from the Crown, dated May 31, 1836, 19 acres of land in the town of Woodstock were granted as an endowment to the "Parsonage and Rectory of Woodstock."
1838. 7th September, 1838. The church (Old St. Paul's) was consecrated by the Right Reverend George J. Mountain, D.D., D.C.L., the Lord Bishop of Montreal (as Dr. Mountain was styled for a few years, the diocese being Quebec).
1843. A chancel was added to the church, costing £250.
1851. Two transepts were built at a cost of £1000.
1852. The old frame school house was destroyed by fire.

1863. 23rd July, 1863, by letters patent from the Crown, 25 acres of land in East Oxford were granted for an endowment for the rectory.

1873. The present cemetery was bought.

Mr. Bettridge was appointed a canon of St. Paul's cathedral, London, Ontario.

1875. Mr. Bettridge, owing to advancing years and ill health, retired from active work and, while retaining his rights as rector, committed the entire work of the parish to an assistant minister and the Reverend W. B. Evans was appointed to the position.

The lot at the corner of Wellington Street and Dundas Street was purchased as a site for the new church.

1876. The Venerable Arthur Sweatman, M.A., Archdeacon of Brant, was appointed to succeed Mr. Evans.

1879. Venerable Archdeacon Sweatman was elected Lord Bishop of Toronto.

21st November, 1879, the Reverend Canon Bettridge, first rector of Woodstock, died, having been 46 years rector.

25th November, the Reverend James Johnson Hill, M.A., was appointed the second rector.

1880. 14th January, 1880, the new church was opened by the Right Reverend Arthur Sweatman, D.D., Lord Bishop of Toronto. The old church was closed.

1882. 21st February, 1882, an Act of the Parliament of Ontario was passed defining the boundaries of the parish of Woodstock "to have been, and to be, and they shall hereafter continue to be, the limits of the said town of Woodstock as the same have been, now are, or hereafter may from time to time exist for municipal purposes".

Whit Sunday, May 28th, 1882, the old church was re-opened, the Reverend A. W. W. Hastings officiating.

1883. 16th December, 1883, the school house next to the new church was used for the first time.

1884. The baptismal font was presented to the church by Mrs. McCormack.

1888. Easter. The Rector, the Reverend J. J. Hill, obtained leave of absence for one year and appointed the Reverend J. C. Farthing his curate.

1889. Easter. Mr. Hill resigned the rectory and the Bishop appointed the Reverend John Cragg Farthing, the third rector of Woodstock.

Easter. Mrs. D. Hughes Charles presented the brass flower vases to the church.

1890, December. All Saint's Chapel, Winniette Street, was opened.

1893. April. Surpliced choir introduced.

1894. February. The rectory was finished and occupied.

1896. Easter. Mr. William Grey presented the church with a bell weighing 1000 pounds.

1897. The Ladies of the congregation present a brass alms basin to the church.

1902. Easter. Mr. G. de C. O'Grady presented the church with a brass altar cross.

6th April. St. Paul's Church was consecrated by the Right Reverend Maurice Scollard Baldwin, D.D., the Lord Bishop of Huron.



Rectors of Old St. Paul's

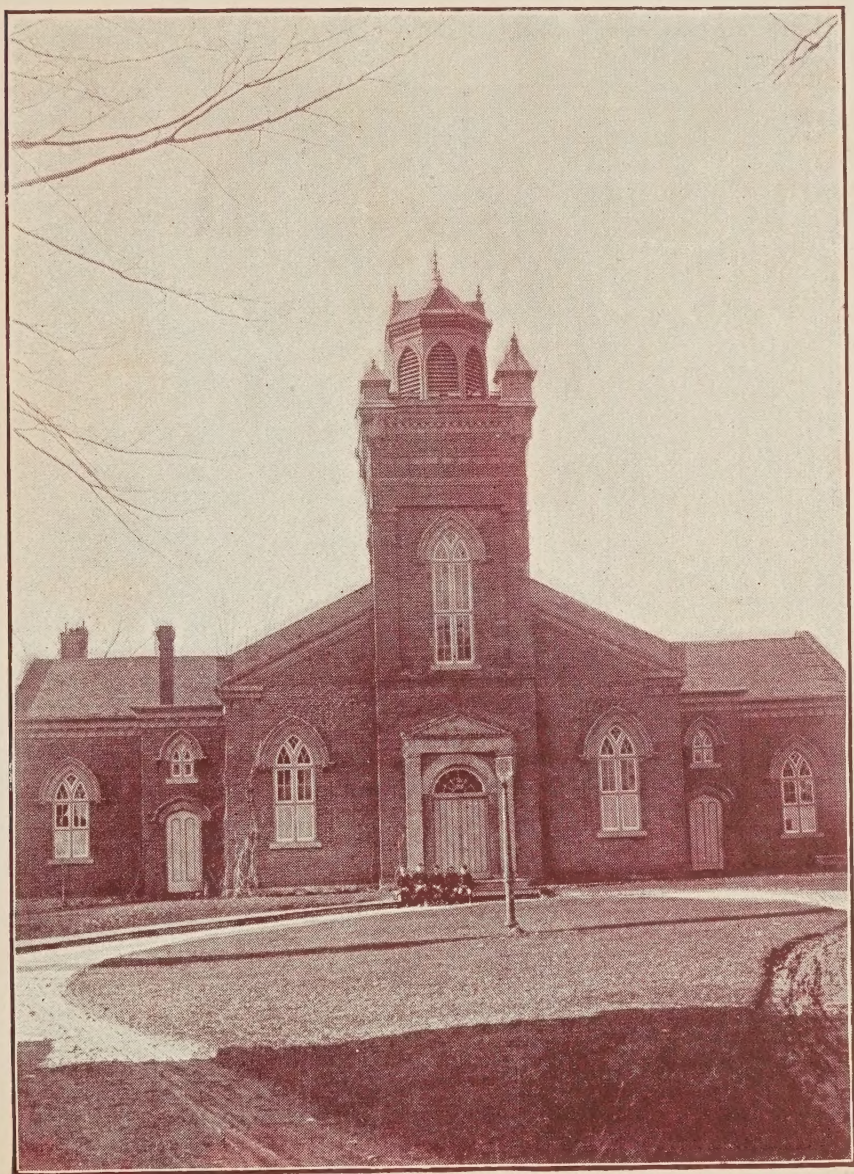
Since its re-opening in May 1882, as a separate congregation.

1882-1886. The Rev. A. W. Hastings. (Now rector of Alpena, Michigan, U.S.A.)

1887-1891. The Rev. William Herry Wade. (Now rector of the Church of the Ascension, Hamilton.)

1892-1897. The Rev. Francis Morgan Baldwin. (Died in July, 1901, at Ridgetown, Ont.)

1898. The Rev. Richard H. Shaw, who is still in charge.



OLD ST. PAUL'S.



